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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF FARNHAM

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ANNUAL REPORT

For The Year Ended

31st December, 1955,

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FARNHAM

1955

Public Health Committee

Councillor Mrs. E. V. Hall (Chairman)  
Councillor H. W. Bide (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Darnley Anderson  
Councillor H. R. Cox  
Councillor Lt. Col. R. P. Dent, A.M.I.Mech.E.,  
Councillor Mrs. A. H. Fulton  
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Councillor D. A. M. Rome  
Councillor H. Rothwell  
Councillor Group Capt. Sidney Smith, D.S.O., A.F.C.,  
J.P., (Chairman of the Council)



Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:  
(Part-time)

F. Bedo Hobbs, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector:  
R. M. Sargent, M.R.San.I., M.Inst.R.Arch.,  
Special Cert. Meat and Other Foods  
(Retired 9th November, 1955)

P. G. Tremain, M.S.I.A.,  
Special Certs. Meat and Other Foods and  
Sanitary Science as Applied to Buildings and  
Public Works  
(From 10th November, 1955)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:  
P. G. Tremain, M.S.I.A.,  
Special Certs. Meat and Other Foods and  
Sanitary Science as Applied to Buildings and  
Public Works  
(Until 9th November, 1955)

C. Webber, C.S.I.B.,  
(Commenced 15th November, 1955)

Clerk:  
S. J. Collett

Pupil:  
C. T. Bridgstock

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1955

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Public Health Department,  
Brightwell House,  
East Street,  
Farnham, Surrey.

June, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Farnham.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sir Arthur Newsholme, who was the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry some years ago, once said that the only man who gets anything out of an Annual Health Report is the man who writes it. There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in this statement, for it is when one starts to review the year's work as a whole and compares it with the happenings in previous years and perhaps with circumstances in other districts, when one has the energy or interest to read the reports of one's colleagues, that one can really take stock and realise what progress has been made and what difficulties there are to be overcome.

Nevertheless, I hope that this report, albeit typed instead of printed and therefore somewhat restricted, on grounds of economy, may be of some interest to Members of the Council and also the public, in spite of the fact that inevitably a large proportion of the report is composed of statistics.

The population has increased by 200 in the year, a considerable drop on the figure of 372 for 1954.

The Birth Rate is slightly lower and the Death Rate is the highest so far recorded in this district.

It is satisfactory to note the continued decrease in the death rate of infants under 1 year of age.

Apart from an epidemic of measles and a mild outbreak of sonne dysentery, the health of the district has been good. In spite of the number of cases of poliomyelitis in surrounding districts, Farnham was fortunate in having only three cases, all of which contracted the disease elsewhere.

Deaths from malignant disease perhaps reflect the increasing age incidence rather than a true increase in malignant disease, although malignant disease of the lung must, I think, be excepted from this.

In November, 1955, Mr. Sargent, Chief Sanitary Inspector, retired after serving this Council for 35 years. Having worked with him for 27 years, I should like to take this opportunity of referring to his many stirring qualities and to say what a happy partnership it has been.

I feel sure that his successor, who received part

of his training from Mr. Sargent, will carry on the good work and would like to say that I think the Council are very fortunate in the staff that I have in my Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. BEDO HOBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Urban District of Farnham remains unchanged at 9,039 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for 1955 is 24,720.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955 was 7,595. There were also 186 shops with dwelling accommodation, giving a total of 7,781. The number of houses owned by the Local Authority at the end of 1955 was 1,292.

The rateable value in 1955 was £250,495 and the sum produced by a penny rate £1,000.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births (legitimate)	322	155	167
Live Births (illegitimate)	15	7	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		13.6	
Still Births (legitimate)	9	2	7
Still Births (illegitimate)	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 of the population		0.364	
Deaths	401	220	181
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population		16.2	

The Birth Rate is slightly lower than last year but remains at approximately the usual figure, but the death rate has gone up to the highest level so far recorded for Farnham. The birth and death rates for England and Wales are 15 and 11.7 respectively.

The death rate for infants under 1 year of age continues its steady decline and it is satisfactory to note that there were no maternal deaths during the year. During 1955 there were 4 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and of these 3 were under 4 weeks of age. This gives a death rate of 11.86 per 1,000 live births. The comparable figure for England and Wales is 24.9 per 1,000 live births.

The classified causes of death are as follows :-

					<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	0	0

	M.	F.
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	9	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	14	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	0	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	21	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	29	36
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	28	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	5	3
Other Heart Disease ... ..	34	45
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	8	9
Influenza ... ..	6	0
Pneumonia ... ..	7	9
Bronchitis ... ..	11	10
Other Disease of Respiratory System ...	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	3	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	5	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	0	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	19	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	5	0
All Other Accidents ... ..	6	5
Suicide ... ..	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	0	0
Totals ... ..	220	181

Farnham has a relatively elderly population and it is therefore inevitable that the death rate should be higher than the average for England and Wales. The high proportion of deaths from disease of the heart and arteries confirms this.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The following is a list of clinics and treatment centres :-

#### Maternity and Child Welfare

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Institute, Rowledge - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Village Hall, Wrecclesham - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Scouts' Hall, Gravel Hill, Lower Bourne - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Institute, Hale - Fridays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Scouts' Hut, Badshot Lea - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.  
 The Village Hall, Weybourne - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

#### School and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays, 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

#### Ante-Natal Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m.



### Chest Clinic

Northfield Hospital, Redan Road, Aldershot - Wednesdays,  
9.30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (A.P. Clinic - Fridays, 2-5 p.m.)

### Dental Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Speech Training Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Mondays,  
9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Ophthalmic Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - 2nd and 4th  
Friday, 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Physiotherapy Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Thursdays,  
9 a.m. - 12 noon.

### Cleansing Centre

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - when required.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

I am indebted to Superintendent Crawte for particulars of the work carried out during the year by the Farnham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The figures are as follows :-

Type of Case	No. of Cases	Mileage
Accidents	261	1,462
Illnesses	140	832
Maternity	125	993
Hospital Transport	2,033	29,065
Outpatients	4,559	42,880
Transport from one private address to another	16	548
Helping patients in home	25	96
Private cases	32	1,488
Totals	7,191	77,364

These figures show an increase of 42% over the number of cases handled in 1954 and of 126% over the number handled in 1949, the first complete year of the service. The mileage is 39% more than in 1954 and 46% more than in 1949.

This great amount of work has only been made possible by the fact that the men, women and cadets of the Division have voluntarily manned the service from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and for a large proportion of the week-ends. They have, in fact, recorded

the following hours of service and it is noteworthy that all the paid staff also put in a lot of time voluntarily, including one night duty per week :-

			<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Ambulance Division	...	...	2,740	6,344
Nursing Division	...	...	2,339	-
Ambulance Cadets	...	...	913	-
Nursing Cadets	...	...	65	-
Total	...	...	<u>6,057</u>	<u>6,344</u>

### Hospital Car Service

The responsibility for the organisation of this vital section of the transport service has now rested with the St. John Ambulance Division for over a year and the same faithful service on the part of its members has been apparent. I would like to acknowledge the great help received during 1955. The statistics are as follows :-

Patients	...	...	1,105
Journeys	...	...	992
Mileage	...	...	11,847

Although the Ambulance Service always takes first priority, the other sides of the work have not been any less busy.

### First Aid

Once again 100% pass for the Annual Re-examination was recorded.

### Public Duties

Members attended many public functions at the request of the organisers.

### Co-operation with Other Bodies

Close liaison has been maintained with the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship and with the Woodlarks Trust and Camp. Every possible help has been afforded for the transport of their members to and from their meetings.

### Work with the Cadet Divisions

Ambulance Cadets, under Cadet Supt. G. Harfield, comprise 22 senior and 9 junior members. Three cadets passed Adult First Aid Examinations. The Division won the Area Cup for first aid, the Blades Cup, two Pirrie-Gordon Medallions, third place R.A.E. John Shield, 5th place in the Regional Competition and also won the Cup in the Youth Sports for 4 x 100 yards relay race.

Nursing Cadets, H.Q. Division, under Area Cadet Officer Miss V. Leather, M.B.E., S.S.St.J., in the temporary absence of Cadet Officer Mrs. Harfield, comprise 20 cadets. Two cadets were transferred to the Nursing Division and two cadets are taking the full-time pre-Nursing Course. The team passed the Area elementary round and went on to the County Competition.

Nursing Cadets, Regal Division, under Cadet Officer Miss Chandler, comprise 14 cadets. Two cadets passed the Senior First Aid and Home Nursing Examinations and one cadet obtained the Special Service Shield.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Once again I have to record with gratitude the services given by various organisations in a voluntary capacity, which do such excellent work in numerous ways in Farnham.

### The Women's Voluntary Services

Six Darby & Joan Clubs are now being run by the W.V.S., as follows :-

The Ridgway Club meet on 2nd and 4th Mondays.  
The Lower Bourne Club meet on 1st and 3rd Mondays.  
The Hale Club meet on alternate Tuesdays.  
The Badshot Lea Club meet on alternate Mondays.  
The Weybourne Club meet on the last Tuesday in the month.  
The Wrecclesham Club meet on the last Thursday in the month.

The Clubs continue to prove very popular and are well attended.

The Gostrey Club, which was launched in September, 1955, is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and serves an excellent hot dinner for 1/3d and tea for a few pence. There is a cheerful and comfortable lounge and also a free lending library, as well as a chiropody service, for which 3/- (two feet) is charged. There are some 130 members and an average of 40 to 50 people have meals there on Tuesdays and 60 to 70 on Fridays.

The Meals-on-Wheels Service delivers an average of 25 meals per week to housebound old people for 1/- each. The numbers have been dropping in recent years and it is possible that this service, which is available to anyone over 70 years of age, is not as widely known as it might be.

A "Trolley Shop" is opened every Monday afternoon at St. James' Home, where the old people can buy sweets, tobacco, sugar, biscuits, notepaper and other small requirements. Librarians are also provided for the library there.

Several W.V.S. members pay regular visits to the chronic sick in Green Lane Hospital who have no near relatives; also to inmates of St. James' and St. Andrew's. A good deal of visiting is also done among old people living alone in and around Farnham. Shopping is done and pensions collected, and in this way these old folk are helped in maintaining their independence and remaining in their own homes.

A good deal of clothing is issued to old people on the recommendation of Hospital Almoners, Visitors, Darby & Joan Club leaders or anyone who knows of a needy case, and the help of the Old People's Welfare Committee and other charitable organisations is enlisted to see that fuel does not run short.

The question of the provision of help in the home at night to give relatives the chance of a good night's sleep occasionally is being explored, and it is hoped that a scheme may be put into operation next year.

### The British Red Cross Society

I am indebted to Mrs. Frayling, Commandant and Divisional Cadet Officer, for the following report :-

Membership for the year shows an increase and we now have over 40 members with an average attendance of 26-30 at



weekly meetings, all of whom take an active part in the service and activities of the Division.

There are now 16 members in the National Hospital Reserve, most of whom have completed their initial training and several their refresher courses. The Nursing Auxiliaries of the Farnham Hospital Mobile Unit team were all members of the Farnham Red Cross and, led by their Medical Officer, Dr. Jeanne Scriven, they did very well for a first attempt in the Regional Hospital Board Competition, being placed first in the marks for first aid. They also staffed the Mobile Unit at two other Civil Defence exercises during the year.

One member has started her nursing training at Guildford County Hospital, another is seconded to Haslemere S.C.C. Childrens' Home and several are working part-time in the Group Hospitals.

Service carried out during the year includes 500 hours at Woodlarks Summer Camps, manning of first aid posts at Frensham Pond in conjunction with Hambledon Division and at local fetes, etc., duty at the Dental Clinic every week, at the Blood Transfusion Centre when it visits Farnham, at Green Lane Hospital help is given with the Good Fellowship Club, escort duty is undertaken and help is also given with training of the cadets.

Courses have been held in first aid, nursing and anatomy and physiology, followed by examinations in the first two, in which the standard achieved by the candidates has been most satisfactory.

#### Junior Red Cross

There are four Cadet Units, one girls and one mixed at Farnham and one boys and one girls at Tilford, totalling about 70 cadets.

Courses followed by examination have been held in first aid, nursing and mothercraft. The general standard attained by candidates has been very satisfactory. The boys attended a course on Fire Protection kindly given by Farnham Fire Brigade.

Service by the cadets has included help given at Farnham Day Nursery, Pinelands Nursing Home, Little Pond House, at Blood Transfusion and Frensham Pond first aid post. They have also knitted a blanket in response to an urgent appeal to be sent to a hospital in Singapore. The Farnham mixed unit gave a demonstration of visual first aid to Red Cross Overseas representatives.

In addition, the Society's members undertook 32 transport jobs during the year and paid 650 visits to "home-bound" cases.

The Good Fellowship Club for handicapped people continues to flourish and the Forget-Me-Not Club, a social club for the elderly, continues to be very popular and the membership is increasing.

The Trolley Shop, which has now been visiting Farnham Hospital regularly for the past three years, is a very great asset and is very popular, as shown by increased sales. The same remarks apply to the Trolley Basket, which is eagerly awaited each week by the old ladies at Green Lane Hospital.

The British Red Cross Society also run a mobile library and 1,568 books have been delivered by the same members in their own cars.

In addition, I am indebted to Miss D. M. Currie for the following report on the work done at Farnham Hospital Library :-

The Farnham Hospital Library carried on its work for patients and staff with rather increased figures than in 1954. The total number of books issued to patients was 1,152 among 842 patients, compared with 1,115 among 853 readers last year. 803 books were issued to the staff among 612 readers.

Complete total - Books, 1,955; Readers, 1,454.

The librarian was able to procure two rather unusual books as special requests. The first, "Treasure on Earth" by Marie Correlli, which the patient knew was out of print and thought unobtainable, and the second, "The Albatross Book of Living Verse". County Headquarters at Guildford were able to procure both these - to the astonishment and delight of the patients. A Bible was given to the Hospital for an elderly man, who said he only wished to read the Bible provided he could have one with extra good print, as his eyesight was very poor. There was one German reader and another Greek patient who enjoyed some French books out of the library. This woman also spoke Arabic and one of the assistant librarians, who had lived in Egypt for some time, conversed with her in that language and discovered what she would like to read.

At the local bookbinding class held at the Red Cross Centre in Stoke Hills, a total of 92 books were repaired and rebound. There have been two new recruits to this class, making a total of 10. There were gifts of 22 books, and 29 books were purchased for the Hospital in 1955.

#### DAY NURSERY

The average attendance has gradually been dropping and, whereas in 1947 the daily average was 30, in 1955 it was 15.

During the year one student nurse passed the N.N.E.B. Examination but owing to the small number of children now attending the nursery it will no longer be recognised as a training nursery for students.

The general health of the children has been good, although 11 children contracted measles during July and August.

Miss Hibberd, who has been Matron for several years, left in February and her place has been taken by Miss Smithson.

#### HOSPITALS

##### Farnham Hospital

Farnham Hospital is the main hospital for the Group, which includes Aldershot, Fleet, Farnborough, Frimley, Camberley and Yateley. Being the only hospital with a resident medical staff and casualty department, the ambulance services are finding that there is less chance of delay in obtaining treatment for road accident cases if patients are brought direct to Farnham, even though one of the other hospitals may be passed on the way. In consequence, the casualty department, which is very small, is often overcrowded and a new building is a real necessity.

The Regional Hospital Board has approved a scheme for building a new block, which will include casualty department, consultative out-patient department, physiotherapy, pharmacy, X-ray department and almoner's offices, as well as a new operating theatre unit, but it is impossible to say when this is

likely to be provided. In the meantime, the old chronic block which was scheduled for demolition before the war has been renovated and will be used temporarily until more and better ward accommodation is available. Tanner Block has been evacuated, with the exception of the children's ward, in order that the existing wards may be altered and additions made to improve the general nursing facilities.

It is expected that work will commence in 1956 and when completed the block will be used for medical cases of both sexes, thus allowing surgical cases to be dealt with in the main hospital block and avoiding transit out of doors after an operation.

The bed occupation during the year has been 87%, with an increased turnover of patients.

The maternity department, which deals with the majority of abnormal deliveries in the area, is far too small and a new department is urgently required.

#### Trimmers Hospital

This hospital is staffed by local practitioners with consultant cover and serves a very useful purpose and helps to relieve Farnham Hospital by taking convalescent cases. The five private wards, being the only ones in the area, are nearly always full.

#### Green Lane Hospital

The 24 cubicle beds for infectious cases have shown a percentage occupation of 65.3 for the year, while the 40 beds available for chronic female cases have had a 98.5% occupancy.

While the number of beds for infectious disease appears to be adequate, there is still a demand for more beds for chronic cases.

Good work has been done in rehabilitating a number of the chronic cases and several who had been bedridden have been rendered mobile again.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

There are approximately 20 helps available for the Farnham district and between them they attended an average of 50 cases each week.

During 1955 work on maternity and general cases in the Farnham area totalled 22,106 hours.

#### PUBLICITY

The Health Services handbook continues to be circulated and provides useful information of the various health services and organisations in the district.

Diphtheria immunisation propaganda has been carried out through the medium of bookmarkers at the libraries in the town.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases, in age groups, notified during 1955 :-

Infectious Disease.	x										
	Total Deaths	Cases Admitted to Hospital	65 & over	45 - 65	35 - 45	20 - 35	15 - 20	10 - 15	5 - 10	4 - 5	3 - 4
Scarlet Fever	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	6	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dysentery	0	17	24	6	0	3	0	4	5	1	0
Para-Typhoid Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	16	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Measles	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	153	22	27
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
At all Ages	9	6	2	1	46	1	0	3	1	0	0

x 16 deaths but only 3 cases notified.



## MEASLES

As shown on Chart 1 in the appendix, we have recently been getting mild epidemics of measles in alternate years and, as there were only three cases notified in 1954, it was not unexpected when 259 notifications were received during 1955. There were no deaths and only three cases were sufficiently bad to warrant admission to hospital.

## WHOOPING COUGH

The number of cases of whooping cough, namely 6, was the lowest figure recorded since the disease became notifiable in 1939. It is, of course, too early to say that this is due to immunisation but it may be having some effect on the reduced incidence. The incidence of the disease since 1940 is shown on Chart 2 in the appendix.

## POLIOMYELITIS

In view of the fact that there were a number of cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in surrounding districts, we were fortunate in having only three cases in this area, and all of these appeared to have contracted the disease in other districts. These were all paralytic cases but not severe.

### Infantile Paralysis Fellowship

The Farnham group continues to flourish.

The Army Headquarters, Aldershot, kindly gave permission to the group to use the Military Swimming Baths once a week, thus enabling members to have hydrotherapy, which has proved very beneficial.

## DYSENTERY

An outbreak of sonne dysentery in a home for old people was responsible for the majority of cases notified under this heading. The infection was widespread, probably carrier-borne and through cross infection via lavatories. There was no indication that food or food handlers were the source of infection, as rectal swabs from all the kitchen staff were negative and the inmates of another home served with the same food from the same kitchen had no cases of diarrhoea.

The symptoms responded rapidly to treatment with achromycin and the effect of this was judged by taking rectal swabs from all the inmates and staff. This could have been a somewhat laborious business but was dealt with quite quickly and effectively by team work, and proved effective in locating and dealing with symptomless carriers.

Ten cases occurred in children of school age and one cannot help feeling that the lack of washing facilities near the school lavatories had something to do with the spread of infection.

## TYPHOID FEVER

The case of typhoid fever was of considerable interest in that we were able to ascertain the source of infection by the use of swabs in the sewers, and the following is an account of the case :-

On January 10th, 1955, a boy aged 7 was admitted to the Green Lane Hospital with a diagnosis of ?encephalitis. He had been taken ill five days previously with a sore throat and a rash, and was at first thought to be suffering from

scarlet fever. He had a swinging temperature going up to 104.6 to 105 and was very drowsy.

During the next 17 days this high swinging temperature continued and he was extremely ill. His motions were loose and incontinent and this was at first thought to be due to the aureomycin with which he was being treated. Blood culture, Paul-Bunnell and other tests were negative and it was not until January 22nd that the Widal test was found to be positive and typhoid bacilli were found in the stools. It was on this date, i.e., 17 days after the onset, that the case was first notified to me.

On investigating, I found that the patient had not been out of Farnham except to visit Harringay Circus on the day previous to the onset of the illness. He had eaten no ice-cream, shellfish, watercress, etc., and, as the other inmates of the house were quite well, food did not appear to be the source of infection. His mother, however, told me that he, together with two other boys, had been playing in a field where there had been an overflow of sewage during the recent heavy storms and that he had come home with his boots covered in sewage. This seemed to be a very likely source of infection and it was decided to take samples of sewage for bacteriological examination.

Swabs were placed in the sewer in three different places, (1) near the manhole from which the sewage had escaped, (2) at a sewer junction about 200 yards away, and (3) at a pumping station half a mile away, through which passed sewage from most of the houses on the south side of the town. These swabs consisted of rolled up pieces of gauze and were suspended in manholes at such a level that the sewage flowed over them. They were left in situ for three days. The first examination produced negative results in all cases. When it was repeated, however, the swabs from the sewer junction and the pumping station grew *Salmonella typhi*.

In the meantime, I had looked through my records and found that in the previous 28 years there had been five cases of typhoid in Farnham. Enquiries were made and it was found that one could not be traced, one had left the district, one was dead and two were still living in Farnham. One of these was the patient's uncle who had had typhoid 26 years ago. He was immediately suspected but he lived in a different house and had not seen the patient for some six to eight weeks before the onset of the illness.

Faeces and urine from these two ex-typhoid patients were examined but gave negative results. It was realised that they might be excreting bacilli intermittently, so swabs were placed in the manholes of the sewers from each of the houses occupied by these people. Immediately, a positive result was obtained from the house occupied by one of the ex-typhoid patients who lived on the south side of the town and who had had typhoid five years ago. The other specimens were negative. Further positive results were obtained from the pumping station and a sewer through which the sewage from the affected house flowed.

The man who had had typhoid was naturally thought to be the source of this contamination but three consecutive specimens of urine and faeces all gave negative results.

The only other occupants of the house were his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. "X". Specimens were then obtained from them and those from Mrs. "X" gave positive results in urine and faeces.

On questioning, it was learned that this lady, aged 74,

had spent many years of her early life in India and Egypt and although she had never to her knowledge had typhoid she did have some obscure and prolonged illness just previous to and after the birth of her daughter about 35 years ago. This was probably typhoid. Thirty years ago, her son had typhoid at the age of three. Her son-in-law, Mr. "Y" when he had typhoid five years ago was living in a different house but stated that he often had meals with Mrs. "X".

Cultures from the patient, the sewer swabs and Mrs. "X" all belonged to the same untypable Vi strain and were identical with that obtained from Mr. "Y" five years previously. It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that Mrs. "X" had had typhoid in Egypt some 35 years ago and that she has been excreting bacilli every since and, as a result, infected her son 30 years ago, her son-in-law five years ago and, lastly, the boy who had been paddling in the contaminated sewage.

Points of interest are :-

1. The fact that the place where the boy was paddling was at least three miles from the original source of infection and the sewage was heavily diluted with storm water.
2. The fact that although Mrs. "X" had probably been excreting typhoid bacilli for some 35 years she has, as far as we know, only infected three people.
3. The consistent results obtained from the swabs placed in the sewers.

#### PARA-TYPHOID FEVER

This was a child aged 7 who lived at Farnborough but was diagnosed in Farnham Hospital.

#### SCARLET FEVER

Chart 3 in the appendix shows the incidence of scarlet fever since 1930.

It will be noted that there appears to be a cycle of approximately 9 to 10 years when the number of cases reaches its peak. In the last decade, however, which coincides with the use of sulphonamides and penicillin, the total number of cases has shown a tendency to decrease.

#### PNEUMONIA

It will be noted that there were 16 deaths from pneumonia, although only 3 cases were notified. Doctors do not always realise that acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal) is notifiable and there is a possibility that although pneumonia was certified as the cause of death it was terminal and not truly primary or influenzal.

#### MALARIA

This case was a relapse in an Indian girl who had contracted the disease in Pakistan.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Once again, it is satisfactory to report that there have been no cases of diphtheria in the district since 1943. The figures for diphtheria immunisation during 1955 are as follows :-



Age Group	Primary	Boosting
Under 5	270	2
5 - 14	6	393
Total	276	395

and the position with regard to immunisation on December 31st, 1955, was :-

Age Group	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	Total
Number of children who completed course between 1951 and 1955	61	955	1,440	838	3,294
Number of children who completed course between 1941 and 1950	-	-	306	648	954
Estimated mid-year child population	180	1,327	3,642		5,149
Immunity Index	33.8	71.9	62.5		69.9

Our objective is to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday.

Although diphtheria is now a rare disease, it has not been stamped out and the fatality rates in the younger age groups, under 1 and 1 to 4, are still high when compared with the other age groups. Experience has shown that in communities where immunisation is below standard the risk of infection can be considerable. A case of diphtheria in a school community can produce a large number of carriers and so increase the risk of infection to any unimmunised children in that community, as well as to younger home contacts.

Immunisation against whooping cough is now given as a routine with diphtheria and the numbers done during 1955 were as follows :-

Age Group	Primary	Boosting
Under 5	259	3
5 - 14	4	8
Total	263	11

#### VENEREAL DISEASE

No cases of syphilis or gonorrhoea have been reported for many years.

It is natural that these complaints should be hidden and therefore enquiries were made at the Aldershot and Guildford Clinics to find out if any patients from Farnham had received treatment there. At Guildford one man received treatment for gonorrhoea during 1955 and at Aldershot 10 patients attended the



clinic, but none of these had either syphilis or gonorrhoea. Of the 6 males, 2 had non-gonococcal urethritis and 4 had conditions such as penile warts or balanitis. The 4 female patients came under the category of suspected contacts or routine ante-natal investigation but none was found to require treatment.

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number of vaccinations against smallpox done during 1955 was :-

Age Group	Vaccinated	Re-vaccinated
Under 1	160	0
1 year	77	0
2 - 4	7	3
5 - 14	3	24
15 & over	10	72
Total	257	99

Comparing the numbers vaccinated under 1 year with the number of births during the year, it appears that approximately 47% of the babies are being vaccinated. This figure, although higher than in many parts of the country, compares unfavourably with the figure of about 85% in this district when vaccination was compulsory and the Public Vaccinator was able to obtain good results, largely by visiting the babies in their own homes.

#### FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from that disease during 1955 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 35	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 55	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 65	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Over 65	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	6	1	0	0	1	0	0

Chart 4 in the appendix shows the number of cases notified and the number of deaths since 1938.

It will be seen that the notifications were showing a steady downward trend until 1953, when they started to rise

again. This coincides with the introduction of Mass Radiography and may be the reason for the increased number of cases picked up in the early stage of the disease.

In contrast, it is satisfactory to note that the death rate has maintained its steady decline, no doubt due to the newer methods of treatment.

## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1955

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following classified table is submitted of (a) the number and nature of inspections made during the year; (b) the number of notices served during the year; (c) the result of the services of such notices :-

#### (a) Number and Nature of Inspections made during the year :-

##### Dwellinghouses

Number inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	433
--	-----

Number of inspections made, including re-inspections and visits to works in progress ... ..	295
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##### Other Visits and Inspections

Food ... ..	184
Food Premises ... ..	424
Slaughterhouses ... ..	190
Dairies ... ..	29
Factories ... ..	141
Shops (Under Shops Act, 1950) ... ..	30
Milk Sampling ... ..	137
Ice-Cream Sampling ... ..	28
Water Sampling ... ..	16
Rodent and Pest Control ... ..	2,674
Drainage ... ..	194
Piggeries ... ..	18
Infectious Disease Prevention ... ..	73
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	46
Miscellaneous ... ..	108

#### (b) Notices Served :-

Number of preliminary notices served under Public Health, Housing and other Acts	67
--	----

#### (c) Results of Notices :-

##### (1) Preliminary Notices -

(a) Complied with ... ..	65
(b) Work not commenced ... ..	2
Total ... ..	67

##### (2) Statutory Notices -

(a) Complied with ... ..	2
(b) Work not commenced ... ..	0
Total ... ..	2

## HOUSING

It was necessary during the year to serve 62 informal notices and 1 formal notice on property owners requiring them to remedy defects found as a result of complaints or during routine inspections.

The Council submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government their slum clearance proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, indicating that they are prepared to deal with an estimated number of 111 unfit houses during the next five years.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables give details of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, during the year :-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	17	20	0	0
Factories (Mechanical)	114	120	0	0
Other Premises	1	1	0	0
Total	132	141	0	0

Number of cases in which defects were found :-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	Referred by H. M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	0	1	0
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	0	1	0
Total	2	2	0	2	0

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

Thirty inspections under the provisions of this Act were made during the year.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

One rodent operator is employed on this work.

There is a free service to dwellinghouses and a number of annual and immediate contracts were made in respect of business premises, hospitals and schools.

The annual test bait of sewers was carried out in May and no "takes" were recorded.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Although there is only a small number of industrial chimneys in the district, I have to report that there are still problems to be solved to prevent pollution of the atmosphere.

## SWIMMING BATHS

Nine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the two swimming baths owned and administered by the Council and the results were satisfactory.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences were issued under the provisions of this Act.

## PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

During 1955, 37 bodies were received into the mortuary and 36 post mortem examinations carried out.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Wey Valley Water Company. Samples submitted for chemical examination quarterly and bacteriological examination weekly proved to be satisfactory throughout the year.

### SEWERAGE

The Council are preparing a scheme to deal effectively with the drainage of the town area.

### HOUSE REFUSE

House refuse was collected weekly from all premises in the Urban District and disposed of by means of controlled tipping at the Sandpits, Weydon Lane.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A large amount of your inspectors' time was devoted to the inspection of food premises, where a steady improvement of conditions under which food is prepared and handled is still continuing.

### MILK

The following table shows the number of designated milk licences granted during the year :-

Designation	Dealer's	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested	4	1
Pasteurised	11	1
Sterilised	7	1
Total	22	3

The bulk of the milk sold in the district is pasteurised, although there is a comparatively small quantity of sterilised and



farm bottled raw Tuberculin Tested milk sold.

129 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Guildford. A summary of results is shown in the following table :-

Designation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Totals
Pasteurised	48	2	50
Tuberculin Tested	2	0	2
T.T. Pasteurised	74	2	76
Sterilised	1	0	1
Totals	125	4	129

Samples of rinse taken during the year are summarised as follows :-

Designation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Totals
Churn Rinse	1	0	1
Bottle Rinse	5	0	5
Totals	6	0	6

#### ADULTERATION

The following table gives a summary of the results of samples taken during 1955 by the Surrey County Council, the responsible authority for the administration of the Food & Drugs Act in connection with food and drug sampling :-

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
<u>Food</u>						
Milk	54	4	58	3	-	3
Baby Food	1	-	1	-	-	-
Cake	1	-	1	-	-	-
Cheese spread	1	-	1	-	-	-
Gin	2	-	2	-	-	-
Marzipan	1	-	1	-	-	-
Meat paste	2	-	2	-	-	-
Soft drinks	2	-	2	-	-	-
<u>Drugs</u>						
Coal Tar ointment	-	1	1	-	-	-
Epsom Salts	-	1	1	-	-	-
Zinc paste	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	64	7	71	3	-	3

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

# INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Six private slaughterhouses were licensed during the year but full use was not made of these slaughterhouses.

There is a cattle market held weekly in the town.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered :-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	32	-	87	200	807	-
Number inspected	32	-	87	200	807	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	1	1	5	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	34.4	-	1.14	2.5	2.2	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.2	-	-	-	0.6	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The percentage of cattle where some part or organ was affected with disease other than tuberculosis may seem high. The condemnations were, in the majority of cases, due to livers being affected with liver fluke and I have reason to believe that in most cases the cattle were of Irish origin.

Foods inspected and found unsound during the year were :-

Commodity	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Imported Beef		12	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon		11	3	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Vegetables		5	1	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ham		5	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Fruit		4	3	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese		4	1	22
Canned Meat		4	0	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork		1	1	21
Bullocks Liver		1	0	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lamb		1	0	23
Tomatoes			3	16
Pigs Kidneys			2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sheeps Liver			2	1
Cakes and Cake Mixture			1	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kippers			1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pigs Heads			1	1
Ox Kidneys				20
Ox Lungs				17
English Beef				15
Jam and Marmalade				14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dried Fruit				10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Fish				9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Irish Turkey				8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Suet				5
Ox Tongue				3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pigs Liver				3
Total	2	15	2	3 $\frac{3}{4}$

73 tins Milk and Cream  
40 gross Eggs  
26 tins Soup  
6 jars Horse-radish Sauce

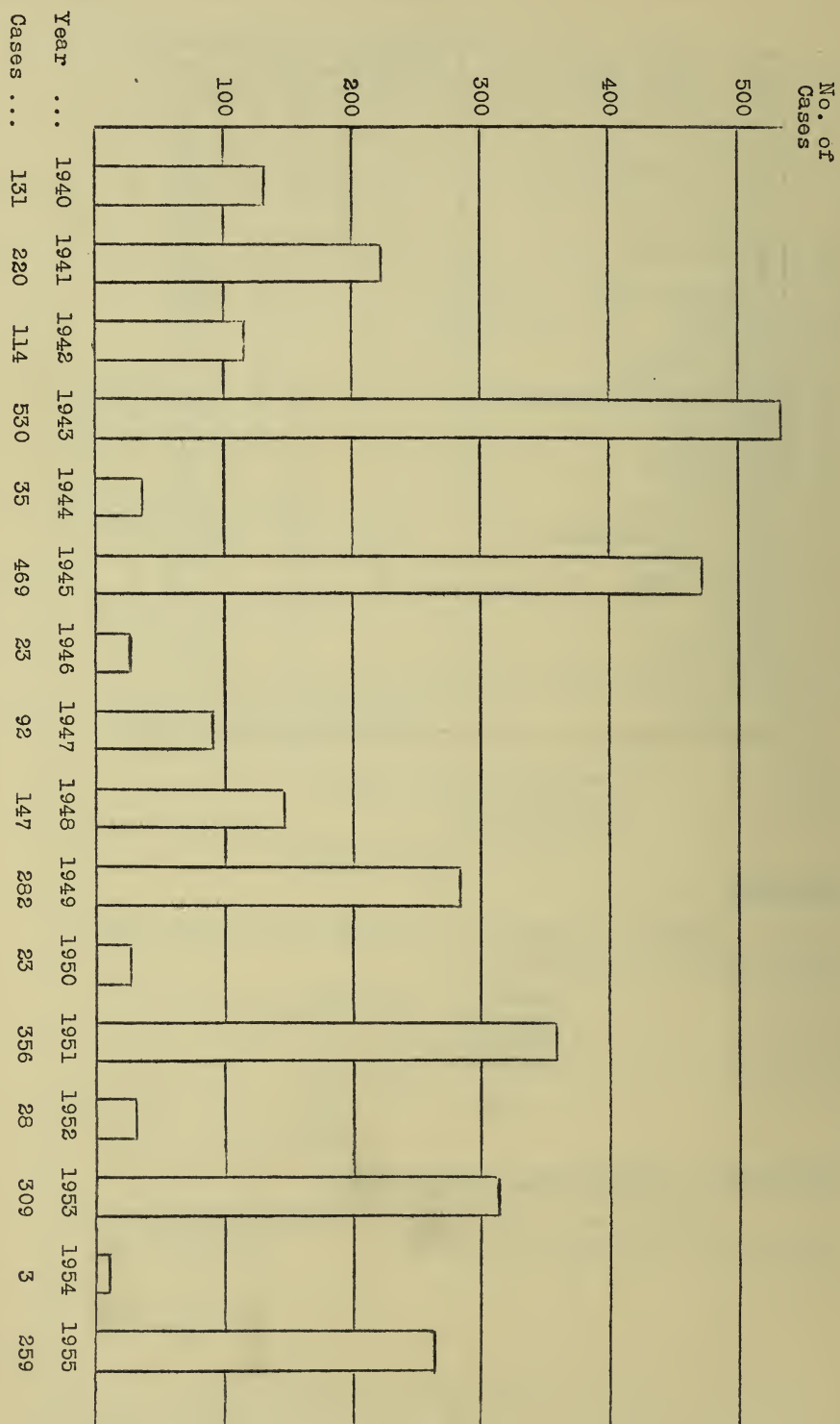
#### ICE-CREAM

Results of analyses of samples of ice-cream taken during 1955 are as follows :-

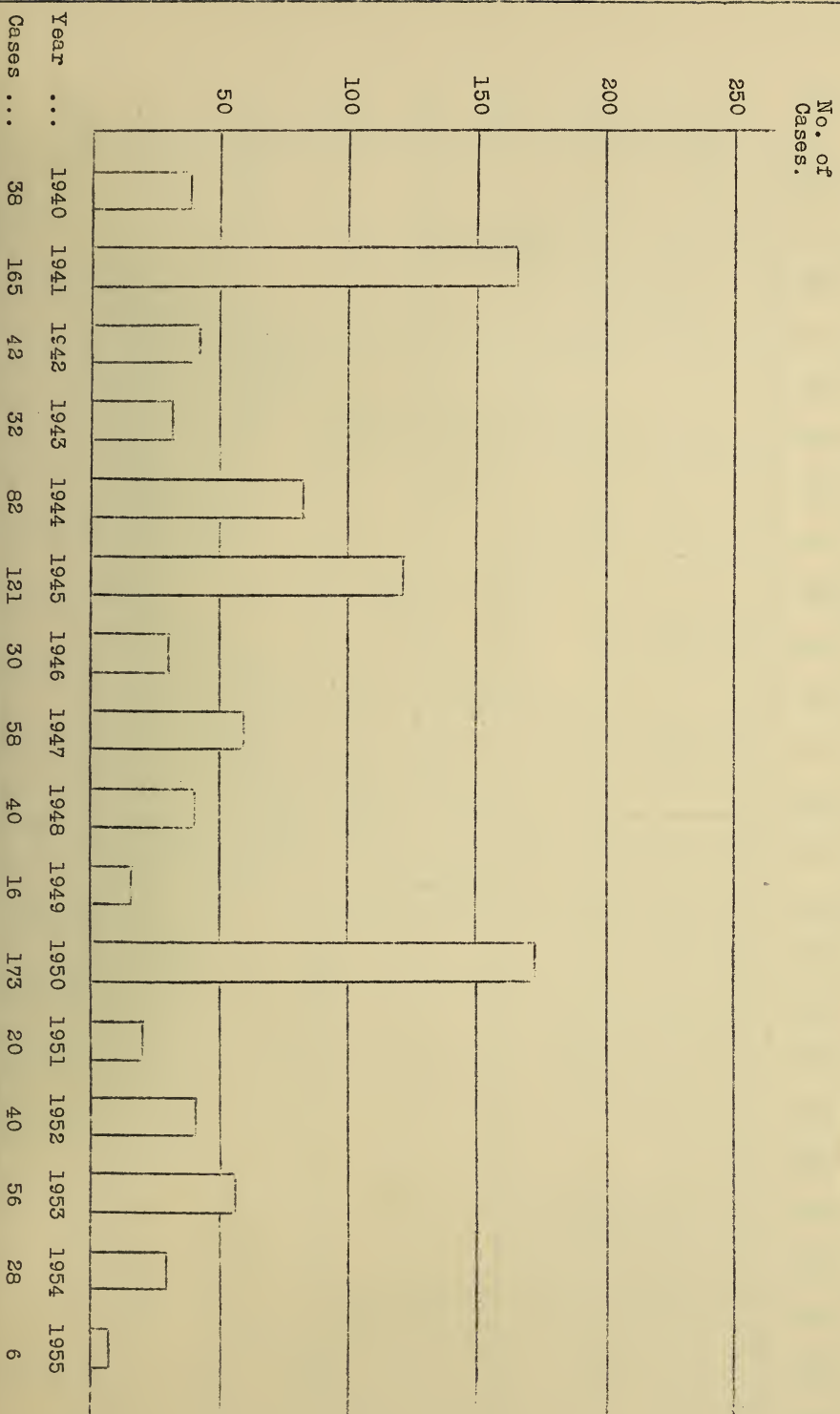
Grade I	...	20
Grade II	...	8
Grade III	...	0
Grade IV	...	0
Total	...	28

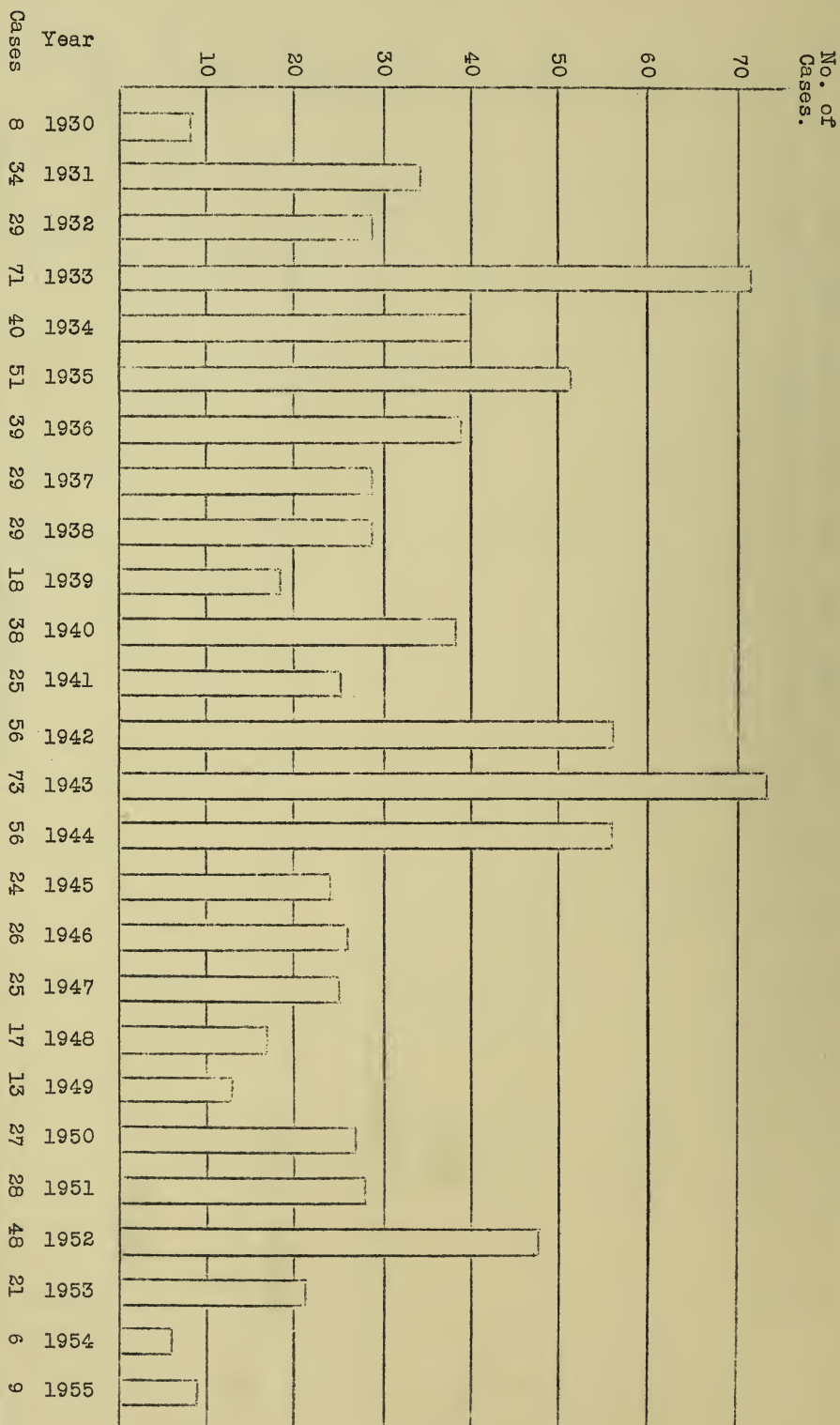
#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1954

There were 15 slaughtermen holding licences under these Acts in the district in 1955.









No. of  
Cases.